

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 9, 2003. Claims 1-8 are pending in the application and Claims 1, and 3-8 stand rejected. Claim 2, 3/2, 4/3/2, and 7/2 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Applicants have cancelled Claim 1 without prejudice and disclaimer and amended herein Claims 3-8.

In view of the allowable subject matter, Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of Claim 1, from which Claim 2 depended. In addition, Claim 8 now recites an image forming apparatus, comprising, among other recited limitations, a latent image carrier as recited in Claim 2. Based on the amendment to Claim 2, cancellation of Claim 1, and amendments to Claims 3-8, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8 are now in condition for issuance.

The title of the invention has been objected to for not being descriptive. Applicants have herein amended the title to overcome that objection, and respectfully request reconsideration of the same.

Claim 7 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) for being in improper multiple dependent form. Applicants have amended the dependency of Claim 7 and herein respectfully request reconsideration of the objection of this claim under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c).

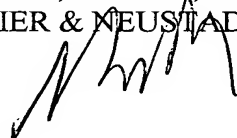
Claim 2 is objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended Claim 2, including correction of the informalities related to the improper grammatical forms, and respectfully request reconsideration of the objection thereto.

Claims 1, 3/1, 4/3/1, 5-6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cais et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,955 hereinafter "Cais"). In addition, Claims 7/1, 7/4, and 7/5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cais in view of Ohkubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,430,526, hereinafter "Ohkubo"). Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the allowable subject matter, the rewriting of Claim 2 in independent form, and the amendments to Claims 3-8, the outstanding anticipation and obviousness rejections of Claims 1, 3/1, 4/3/1, 5-6 and 8 are now moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding anticipation and obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

Based at least on the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability of Claims 2-8.

Respectfully submitted,

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